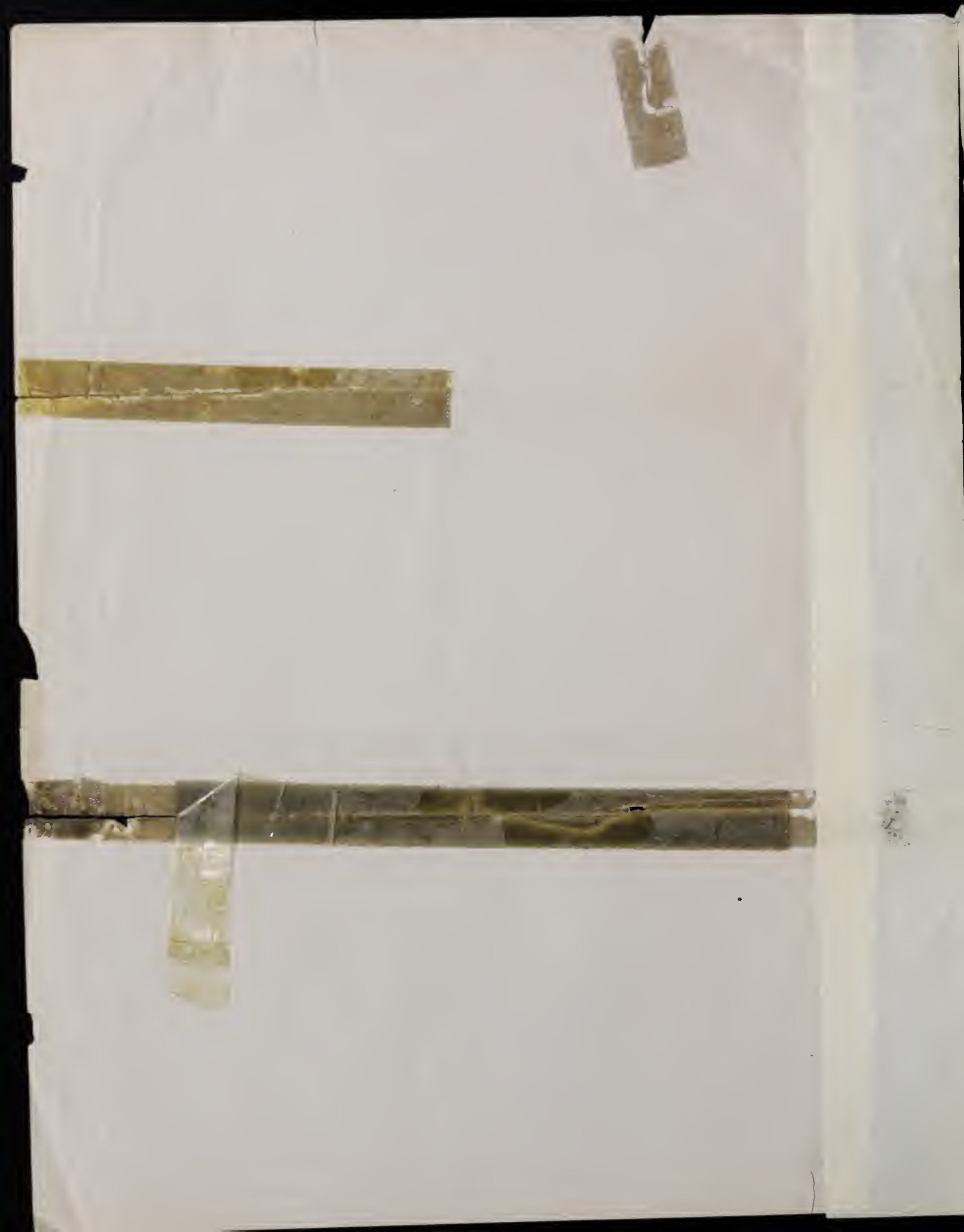


Pharon School Reminiscence.

Among my earliest recollections
is the old school colored six or seven at South
Pharon which stood on the same site as the
present structure. It was a small
building devoid of paint both inside and out.
There was a large door at one end of the
building and a large pile of logs of wood from the
logs of wood from the pile, and these
served two purposes, one as a foot stool, and
the other for warmth in the cold winter
even crack and crevice. Into these small quar-
ters were crowded fifty pupils for the grades
were large in those days. There was the whole
family of the children the St. Andrews the How
as the Anderson, the Capens, the Dukes - two
brothers with ten children each - and the Col-
man family of nineteen children.

It was a great effort to get the
children to school. The efforts that
were made to send their children to school. When
the snow drifts were so high as to make the
roads almost impassable they would yoke
their men to a sled, and take their own
and perhaps their neighbors children to school.
Some of the children came a distance of
three or four miles.

The schoolmaster, as he was called in
those days, used to send one of the boys out



to the woods, I can say, to cut a sapling to be
used on the boy himself. For some mysterious
or, on one of his companions, in a special
whom. Instead of moral suasion was used
in these days. Sometimes it was the pain
instead of the stick and its wooden stick
to run to one's heart and the teacher and
the big boy were drinking or drinking to be
a master. It is possible would see a dinner come
on the side with water and a glass of milk and
might well be glad it was the drink that re-
ceived the blow and not their hand.

The prudish committee, on hired the
teacher, and physical strength as well as
brains entered into the qualifications of the
schoolmaster elect.

William Currier Alden, the Dr. Alden, later,
pastor of the Baptist Church in Sharon, who
taught the school in one of the families, then a
youth of nineteen, was one who ruled by love
and not by the rod. And his pupils loved and
respected him.

I remember how intense winter became
the days, as the little children were kept the
whole six hours of the two sessions, and the
paving class composed of men and women
as it then seemed to us, was locked for out
to each day because it was almost the last rec-
itation before the school would be dismissed.

There were six months of school each year, the
summer term beginning the first Monday in June, and
continuing through the hottest of the weather and the
winter term beginning the Monday following Thanksgiving



The school committee would often drop in, sometimes by two, sometimes by threes, and one would come in lightly on tiptoe, apparently to surprise us. They were all expected to make remarks at the close of the sessions and we were expected to keep very still till each had taken his turn. The clergy served in this capacity. Among those outside of the clergy, are the names of Elijah Hewins, Solomon Talbot and Lemuel S. Hewins.

We recall the woods near by, where we made playhouses with stones, with the leaves of the oak tree for carpets. The spring a short distance away which supplied the school with water. The tall tree on the hill above it where we often ate our dinners. The great rock in the pasture climbed by so many feet - all these and many other pictures crowd our memory.

Elizabeth M. Billings,

Hartford, Conn., March 17, 1904.



A South Sharon School Reminiscence

Among my earliest recollections is the old wood-colored school house at South Sharon which stood on the same site as the present structure. It was a rough building devoid of paint – both inside and out. There was a long seat running on the sides of the building and the boys used to bring huge logs of wood from the wood-pile and these served two purposes, one as a footstool and the other for warmth as the cold came in at every crack and crevice. Into these small quarters were crowded sixty pupils for the families were large in those days. There was the Tisdale family of ten children, the Howards, the Morses, the Dunbars, the Capens, the Drakes – two brothers with ten children each – and the Tolman family of nineteen children. Those fathers showed their appreciation of the value of an education in the efforts they made to send their children to school. When the snowdrifts were so high as to render the roads almost impassable they would yoke their oxen to a sled and take their own and perhaps their neighbors children to school. Some of the children came a distance of three or four miles.

The Schoolmaster, as he was termed in those days, used to send one of the boys out to the woods nearby to cut a sapling to be used on the boy himself for some misdemeanor or on one of his companions, as corporal punishment instead of moral suasion was used in those days. Sometimes it was the ferule instead of the stick and it would strike terror to our hearts when the teacher and big boy were deciding which should be master. This ferule would sometimes come down on the desk with wonderful force and all might well be glad it was the desk that received the blow and not their hand. The prudential committee man hired the teachers and physical strength as well as brains entered into the qualifications of the schoolmaster elect.

William Harrison Alden, the Dr. Alden later pastor of the Baptist church in Sharon who taught the school in one of the forties, then a youth of nineteen, was one who ruled by love and not by the rod, and his pupils loved and respected him.

I remember how interminably long seemed the days, as the little children were kept the whole six hours of the two sessions, and the parsing class composed of men and women as it then seemed to us, was looked forward to each day because it was almost the last recitation before the school would be dismissed.

There were six months of school each year, the summer term beginning the first Monday in June, and continuing through the hottest of the weather and the winter term beginning the Monday following Thanksgiving.

The school committee would often drop in, sometimes by twos, sometimes by threes, and one would come in lightly on tiptoe, apparently to surprise us. They were all expected to make remarks at the close of the sessions and we were expected to keep very still till each had taken his turn. The clergymen often served in this capacity. Among those outside of the clergy are the names of Elijah Hewins, Solomon Talbot and Lemuel D. Hewins.

We recall the woods near by where we made play houses with stones, with the leaves of the oak tree for carpets; the spring a short distance away which supplied the school with water with the tall tree on the hill above it where we often ate our dinners; the great rock in the pasture climbed by so many feet – all these and many other pictures crowd our memory.

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